

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and optimism for the U.N. Climate Change Conference, or COP 21, which will be held in Paris next month.

In advance of the negotiations, 146 parties submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, laying out the actions they intend to take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These pledges cover 86 percent of global emissions.

We have seen major commitments from the United States, the European Union, China, and other major developing nations. We have also seen incredible support from the private sector.

Many companies, including dozens of Fortune 500 companies, have made commitments to the American Business Act on Climate Pledge. Many businesses recognize that acting on climate change is not only the morally right thing to do, but the economically right thing to do, also.

An agreement in Paris would be an incredible first step that could be built upon with even more ambitious goals in the coming years because the bottom line in climate change is too big to tackle alone.

We need global cooperation from governments and businesses, and the United States must be a leader, demanding bold action to take on the very real threats we face.

An agreement in Paris is good for our national security, our economy, and our environment. I wish good luck to our negotiating team.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MASON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mason High School marching band, which was selected to participate in the Rose Bowl parade on New Year's Day. Only 20 high school bands are selected from across the country each year to participate in this highly prestigious event.

The Mason High School band has won four consecutive titles as the top high school band in all of Ohio. They also finished fifth in the national competition, becoming only the second band from southwest Ohio to ever play in the Rose Bowl parade.

I know that the students in the band have put in a lot of hard work for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I have no doubt that they will perform magnificently.

The Rose Bowl parade is televised around the world in 115 countries. So this is a great opportunity to show the world the talented students from southwest Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wish the students, the parents, the teachers, and all of Mason High School the best as they travel and perform and make our community proud. Go, Comets.

CELEBRATING DIWALI

(Mr. BERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, next week is Diwali. The annual festival of lights is celebrated by more than 2 million Indian Americans and more than 1 billion people worldwide.

Tomorrow more than a thousand Indian Americans will descend on Capitol Hill to celebrate Diwali. It is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the South Asian community, accomplishments in business, technology, health care, and academics.

All across this Nation, in communities small and large, you will see those small-business owners, those academics, those doctors. It is a chance to give back to a country that has provided so much opportunity to immigrants over the generations, including the Indian American community.

For a community that has benefited so much, it is great to see them participating in the political process, celebrating those accomplishments, and giving back to a country that means so much to us.

Mr. Speaker, let's celebrate. Let's celebrate who we are as Americans. Let's celebrate a dynasty of immigrants, one successive generation after another, moving this country forward.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO EDINA GIRLS TENNIS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, if it is fall, it means it is time for another Edina High School girls tennis State title. For the 19th year in a row, the Hornets won the Minnesota State championship. This year concluded with a very hard-fought victory over Prior Lake.

Despite Edina's previous success, this year's title was never a sure thing, as the team needed to rebound from an early season loss. Led by strong performances in singles by Sophia Reddy and in doubles by Katie Engelking and Nicole Copeland, the Hornets came out with a 5-2 victory.

Mr. Speaker, it is exciting to see the commitment from these athletes as they compete at a high level year in and year out while still excelling in school and setting aside time for family and other commitments. The parents, family members, friends, fans, and coaches are all very proud of what they have accomplished.

Congratulations, again, to the Edina High School girls tennis team for winning the State championship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT E. STARR

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved Fort Worth educator, veteran, and civil rights activist, Mr. Robert E. Starr.

Mr. Starr attended I.M. Terrell High School and was the first in his family to attend college. While he was in college, he was drafted into the military and served as a medic during World War II, a time when the Army was still segregated. There were two Armies: one Black and one White. Mr. Starr saw some things that he shared with us that I will never forget.

After he completed his education at Texas College in Tyler, he got his master's degree at Texas Southern University. He worked in the Fort Worth schools. He became known as a civil rights activist that was passionate about issues in the community. Mr. Starr was also employed at the FAA as a diversity manager, worked for the City of Fort Worth as an affirmative action manager, and worked as an investigator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Mr. Starr was also dedicated to the NAACP.

Mr. Starr was a proud member of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church on the north side of Fort Worth. He was also a very proud resident of the north side of Fort Worth.

Mr. Starr was preceded in death by his wife and daughter. He and his wife had a daughter that was severely disabled, and they were 100 percent dedicated to her. She died a few years ago.

Mr. Starr will be sorely missed in the community. He was at every event and did so much for everyone. He was literally a friend to everybody that he ever met.

HONORING WOODY WOODSIDE

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woody Woodside for his outstanding service with the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce.

Over the last 30 years as president of the chamber of commerce, Woody has dedicated his life to the success of Brunswick and the Golden Isles, making countless trips to Washington, D.C., for the benefit of southeast Georgia. But his service and leadership go far beyond his chamber presidency.

Woody graduated from The Citadel in 1970 and is a retired officer with 23 years of service to the Georgia National Guard. In addition, he served as a congressional staff member for 14 years to two of my predecessors, Congressman "Bo" Ginn and Congressman Lindsay Thomas.

Woody has devoted his life to serving his country and his community. I am very lucky to call him a constituent, but I am luckier to call him a friend.

I would like to thank Woody for his service to the Golden Isles, the First Congressional District of Georgia, the great State of Georgia, and our country.